COMMUNITY

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Candela: A Venue For Live Latino Music in SW Detroit

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS

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SPORTS

Page 10 –
Playoffs ???

El Ballet Folklórico de Detroit se llevó el 1er lugar en el National Folklorico Dance

El Grupo de danza, se presentará totalmente gratis como agradecimiento a la comunidad

El Ballet Folclórico De Detroit (BFD) ha anunciado un concierto familiar de celebración navideña, en el suroeste de Detroit el domingo 17 de diciembre. El concierto promete ser un gran espectáculo para todas las edades y contará con bailarines del BFD interpretando auténticas Danzas folclóricas mexicanas.

El pasado marzo, el BFD participó en la Competencia Folclórica de Texas, donde pudieron ganar los trofeos del 1° y 2° lugar en la competencia de grupos pequeños (10 bailarines). Ellos retribuirán el apoyo de la comunidad, de forma gratuita, con la presentación de su danza.

cont. en la pág. 3

Ballet Folklorico de Detroit Wins 1st place at the National Folklorico Competition

Local dance group offers free concert to thank the community for its support

Members of Ballet Folklorico de Detroit celebrate their first and second place trophies at the National Folklorico Competition Texas in March 2023. Photo by Ballet Folklórico De Detroit

Ballet Folklórico De Detroit (BFD) announced that it is hosting a family friendly "Holiday Celebration" concert in Southwest Detroit on Sunday, December 17. The concert promises to be a great time for all ages and will feature the dancers of BFD performing historically authentic Mexican folkloric dances.

This past March, BFD attended Competencia Folklorica de Tejas where they were able to win 1st and 2nd place trophies in the small group competition (10 dancers competed). They will "give back" by presenting those dances free of charge to the community that supported them.

cont. on pg. 3

New $18M Campbell Street Apartments Breaks Ground in East Chadsey-Condon Neighborhood

New development will bring 39 units of affordable housing to Michigan Avenue

Mayor Mike Duggan joined community developer MiSide Community Impact Network, along with state and local leaders to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Campbell Street Apartments, a brand-new affordable housing development located on long-vacant land at 5800 Michigan Avenue. The development will provide the East Chadsey-Condon neighborhood with 39 units of deeply affordable housing in its first phase of construction.

The new $18M mixed-use development will offer a range of 1 to 3-bedroom units, 20 of which will be reserved for households with incomes up to 40% area median income (AMI), with the other 19 reserved for households with incomes up to 60% AMI. However, thanks to project-based housing vouchers from MSHDA as part of the development agreement, no resident will have to pay more than 30% their income on rent. An additional 40 units are planned for the second phase of this project, which is expected to be fully completed by the end of next year.

"The reason we don't have tent cities here in Detroit is because we work so hard to create and preserve affordable housing and meet Detroiters where they are," said Mayor Mike Duggan.

cont on pg.6

SER Metro-Detroit Named Best-Managed Nonprofit Finalist

In its December 4, issue, Crain's Detroit Business named SER Metro-Detroit, Jobs for Progress Inc. a finalist in its annual Best-Managed Nonprofit Awards. The recognition comes in part thanks to SER's launch in 2019 of a "no-wrong-door" workforce development program to simplify the path to a job in the construction trades. SER Metro asked employers what they needed and built a training program to offer everything from soft skills like showing up to work on time to a specific certification that was needed.

SER has secured more than $4 million in grants since the program's inception to provide support for things like childcare, housing, transportation, steel-toed boots, Carhartt jackets and stipends to enable participants to pay their bills and feed their families while in the program.

SER Metro-Detroit's leadership team: from left, Manuela M. Zarate, VP & COO; Eva Garza Dewaelsche, President & CEO; Dr. David Cunningham, VP & CFO; Ann Leen, AVP Youth Programs; Jason Fitz, Dir. of Finance and Veronica Sanchez Peavey, Senior AVP Adult Programs

For more information about SER's Best-Managed Nonprofit recognition, read the full article by Sherri Welch at https://www.crainsdetroit.com/awards/ser-metro-detroit-jobs-progress-inc-2023-best-managed-nonprofits

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Candela: Introducing A Venue For Live Latino Music in Southwest Detroit

By Andrea Meza
Photos by Alejandro Ugalde

Paula Anderanin is jumping for joy over her plans to open Candela in the Lithuanian Hall in Southwest Detroit as a new venue for live Latino music

In the historic Lithuanian Hall in Southwest Detroit, Paula Anderanin stands behind her DJ-quality turntables and blasts a Latin mix. The hall, now known as Candela, is where Anderanin envisions a music venue that reminds her of the free-spirited nightlife in Argentina, where she grew up. As she stands on the stage blasting her music, she can't wait for the day the building will be open for the general public to enjoy.

"I want to build experiences; I want to bring an ode to old school Copacabana with live music and dining. If we do music from a specific region of Mexico, then we have cooks from the region, Anderanin said. "If we do Puerto Rican salsa, we will have Puerto Rican cooks. Of course, when we do Argentinian tango, then we will have a really nice steak."

After years of looking for the right venue, Anderanin recently purchased the Lithuanian Hall in Southwest Detroit. She spent months searching for the right space and almost bought the Stratford, an old theater on Vernor that used to show Mexican movies. The redevelopment of the theater was cost-prohibitive for her and would have taken years to finish. Anderanin also looked at the Polish Hall on Junction, but again, it needed tens of thousands of dollars worth of work.

"When you start to look at properties to rehab, you take for granted being able to turn on a light or that the water actually works properly," Anderanin chuckled.

Ultimately, she settled on the Lithuanian Hall, a space built almost 100 years ago and was the center of Lithuanian life and culture. Southwest Solutions, the previous owner, spent $2.2 million on a renovation that was completed in 2006. The hall has a stage and great acoustics, perfect for a live music venue. It can also double as a community space and has retail on the ground floor.

Getting to this point was years in the making. "I had to learn a lot along the way," Anderanin said. "I had to learn about all the different kinds of environmental surveys, about an environmental inspection, I had to learn what an ALTA survey was."

She says it was Greg Mangan at the Southwest Detroit Business Association who held her hand through a lot of the process and informed her of grants she could apply for.

"Paula wowed developers and community development nonprofits with her business plan," Mangan said. "The development space is disproportionately male, so it was great to be able to support someone like Paula, who has worked in Southwest Detroit for years."

Anderanin was born in Argentina. She remembers Buenos Aires as a vibrant city scattered with cafes, where people drink coffee as a social activity and where social life happens on the streets. She says she and her friends often got on a bus or train and went wherever they wanted.

When she was 14 years old, Anderanin's father, an engineer, was offered a job working in Michigan. He accepted, and her family picked up and moved to Rochester Hills. She said her only knowledge of American life was through movies like ET.

"Cool, I'll get to ride my bike to school just like in the movie," Anderanin thought.

However, she soon realized that the suburbs of the Midwest were nothing like in the movies. It was a complete "culture shock" for her. Anderanin was not used to the cold and grey days that Michigan had to offer, and the Latino population in Rochester was small.

Anderanin always had a passion for art and music, and as her high school years came to an end, she felt like she had to pick between her two loves. She chose art and was accepted into The College for Creative Studies, a private art school in Detroit, to study graphic design.

But Anderanin couldn't shake her love of music. In college, she and her friends would host their own Latin parties at Club 2000 off Jefferson, a now defunct music venue.

After college, she began working in advertising at Global Hu, a privately owned advertising agency. She remembers always being the one in charge of the music at private agency parties.

The owners of Global Hu also owned the lease on the Aretha Franklin Amphitheater, and Anderanin took the opportunity to advocate for more Latino music concerts. They agreed, and the first show they booked was The Gypsy Kings. It was a major success and Anderanin went from throwing parties to booking Latino artists.

She continued doing shows with El Club, Majestic Theatre, La Terraza, and the DeVos Performance Hall in Grand Rapids. She has worked in theaters and music venues across the state and worked with LiveNation to promote major artists like Pitbull or Enrique Iglesias.

After years of hustling to promote music acts, she started to look at different spaces to open her own venue because she realized how much money the venues were making.

"I'm doing all these events, and I've done so many sold-out shows for other people, and I'm making a little bit of money compared to all the money they're doing," Anderanin said.

"So I'm like, yeah, it's about time that I start looking into doing my own thing, having my own space, " Anderanin said. "So I started in 2019, you know, to kind of start looking at getting some spots. And I looked at a couple of different places here in the Southwest, but this one turned out to be the right one."

Lithuanian Hall was perfect; it just needed some updating and no major construction. She was also intrigued by its history and hopes to highlight it when the space is finally open.

She said one of the hardest challenges in finding her own place has been raising funds, so she is extremely grateful to Motor City Match, Invest Detroit, and the State of Michigan for the grants they awarded her.

Her goal is to open Candela by the spring of 2024, but for now, she will be hosting small community events.

She also expects it to generate employment for the community and will seek to hire locally. The space will be able to be used for private events and as a space to give local artists the opportunity to showcase their work. Ultimately, Candela will be a space to bring Latinos from every part of Michigan to come together and celebrate each other's cultures.

"From Latin rock to cumbia, to salsa, and reggae, and famous out-of-town DJs," Anderanin said.

"You can expect all kinds of Latino music here."

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Andrea Meza works for United Community Housing Coalition and graduated from Wayne State University in broadcast journalism. Her main passion is informing and supporting the community.

This story was made possible by the Race and Justice Reporting Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to strengthen representative democracy by building trust between the news media and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities.

Paula Anderanin

Ballet Folklorico de Detroit Wins 1st place

Photos provided by: Photos by Ballet Folklórico De Detroit

Con't from pg. 1

"Our community has always been there when we needed them. When we needed a space to practice, we were offered space. When we needed funds to be able to present these historically accurate dances in the historically accurate costumes our sponsors supported us. And this past spring, when we feared not being able to attend the competition due to an increase in costs, the community helped us raise the money through a GO FUND ME campaign. Because of that support, we were able compete against hundreds of other dancers and to bring back to Detroit 1st and 2nd place trophies in the small group category," said Lance Rodriguez, founder and director of BFD.

"I am so proud of these kids. They worked hard to be able to master the needed techniques to win. One of my great memories of the competition took place right after we danced when fellow dancers and spectators reached out to me to congratulate us on a job well done. Often commenting that they had no idea Folklorico was taking place so far north," Rodriguez said.

Lance Rodriguez, a Kresge fellow, donates his time five nights a week to BFD. A southwest Detroit native, Rodriguez has participated in folklorico since the age of three. He stated that as an English-speaking great-grandson of Mexican immigrants, learning folklorico dance offered him an opportunity to connect to his heritage, learn that hard work and dedication is needed for improvement and that sharing his culture with his community is important and rewarding.

"Although I didn't really realize it at the time, growing up in Southwest Detroit offered me a unique chance to connect with and share my heritage," Rodriguez said. "For me, practices and performances were about having fun with my friends. I didn't understand that I was also developing skills that would help me throughout my life. Folklorico also offered me unique opportunities. It was because of my participation in folklorico that I was able to perform at The White House and participate in competition in Mexico. I will never forget those life changing experiences. Truthfully, sharing my art with the next generation gives me joy and a sense of fulfillment," he stated.

"Deciding to put forth the effort and funding to take the dancers to competition was a huge commitment," Rodriguez explained, "I was worried but it was a risk we decided to take together.

Because of it, we have grown stronger as a team and have become better dancers. It is difficult to explain the difference it has made in the team's willingness to work harder together. Each year we have new students who've never attended competition earn the opportunity to compete.

I wish you could see the students' determination and the expression on their faces when they realize that there is an entire community of similar kids who practice daily to express their heritage through dance," Rodriguez stated. "We are very excited for this year's concert; we expect a near capacity crowd. My dancers are practicing extra diligently to give their best. I am very proud of their efforts."

The "Holiday Celebration" concert will take place from 3-5PM on Sunday, December 17 at the Senate Theater, 6424 Michigan Ave. Detroit, MI. Refreshments, tee-shirts, and other fun activities will be available. General seating is available on a first-come – first-served basis until full capacity. Doors open at 2:30 PM. You may register for tickets on the website: https://bfdetroit.org/annual-concert

El Ballet Folklórico de Detroit se llevó el 1er lugar

Con't de pg. 1

"Nuestra comunidad siempre ha estado ahí cuando la necesitábamos. Cuando necesitábamos un espacio para practicar, nos ofrecieron espacio. Cuando necesitábamos fondos para poder presentar los bailes históricos precisos con los auténticos trajes, nuestros patrocinadores nos apoyaron. Y la primavera pasada, cuando temíamos no poder asistir a la competencia debido a un aumento en los costos, la comunidad nos ayudó a recaudar los fondos a través de una campaña GO FUND ME. Gracias a ese apoyo, pudimos competir contra cientos de bailarines y traer de regreso a Detroit los trofeos del primero y segundo lugar en la categoría de grupos pequeños", dijo Lance Rodríguez, fundador y director de BFD.

"Estoy muy orgulloso de estos niños. Trabajaron duro para poder dominar las técnicas necesarias para ganar. Uno de mis mejores recuerdos de la competencia tuvo lugar justo después de bailar, cuando compañeros bailarines y espectadores se acercaron a mí para felicitarnos por el gran trabajo. Varios comentaron que no tenían idea de que el baile Folclórico se estaba llevando a cabo tan al norte", dijo Rodríguez.

Lance Rodríguez, miembro de Kresge, dona su tiempo cinco noches a la semana a BFD. Es originario del suroeste de Detroit, Rodríguez ha participado en la danza folclórica desde los tres años. Comentó que como bisnieto de inmigrantes mexicanos de habla inglesa, aprender danza folclórica le ofreció la oportunidad de conectarse con su herencia, aprender que se necesita trabajo duro y dedicación para mejorar y que compartir su cultura con su comunidad es importante y gratificante.

"Aunque realmente no me di cuenta en ese momento; crecer en el suroeste de Detroit me ofreció una oportunidad única de conectarme y compartir mi herencia", dijo Rodríguez. "Para mí, las prácticas y presentaciones consistían en divertirme con mis amigos. No entendía que también estaba desarrollando habilidades que me ayudarían a lo largo de mi vida. El ballet Folclórico también me ofreció oportunidades únicas y fue gracias a mi participación en esta danza que pude presentarme en La Casa Blanca y también participar en competencias en México. Nunca olvidaré esas experiencias que cambiaron mi vida. Sinceramente, compartir mi arte con la próxima generación me da alegría y una sensación de plenitud", afirmó.

"Decidir poner el esfuerzo y el financiamiento para llevar a los bailarines a la competencia fue un compromiso enorme", explicó Rodríguez, "estaba preocupado pero era un riesgo que decidimos tomar juntos.

Gracias a ello nos hemos fortalecido como equipo y nos hemos convertido en mejores bailarines. Es difícil explicar la diferencia que ha marcado en la voluntad del equipo de trabajar más duro en conjunto. Cada año tenemos nuevos estudiantes que nunca han asistido a una competencia y que tienen la oportunidad de competir.

Ojalá pudieran ver la determinación de los estudiantes y la expresión en sus rostros cuando se dan cuenta de que hay toda una comunidad de niños similares que practican diariamente para expresar su herencia a través de la danza", afirmó Rodríguez. "Estamos muy emocionados por el concierto de este año y se espera llenar el teatro. Mis bailarines están practicando mucho para dar lo mejor de sí. Estoy muy orgulloso de sus esfuerzos".

El concierto Holiday Celebration se llevará a cabo de 3 a 5 p. m. el domingo 17 de diciembre en el Teatro Senate, 6424 Michigan Ave. Detroit, MI. Habrá refrescos, camisetas y otras actividades divertidas disponibles. Los asientos generales están disponibles por orden de llegada hasta completar la capacidad. Las puertas se abrirán a las 2:30 p.m. Puede registrarse para obtener entradas en el sitio web: https://bfdetroit.org/annual-concert

Traducción por Carmen Elena Luna

SPECIAL WORLD'S CULTURES

Mexican Posadas

Recipe: Mexican Christmas Ponche

Ingredients for 12

12 pieces of sugar cane
5 Apples, sliced
5 Pears, cubed
10 Guavas in cubes
1 pound of Tejocote
5 liters of water
½ pound tamarind
½ pound of dry Prunes
5 tablespoons Jamaica Flower
2 Cloves
2 pounds of Piloncillo
10 tablespoons of sugar
2 cinnamon sticks

Preparation

Peel the canes and cut into sticks.

Remove the core from the apples and cut them into thin strips, repeat the procedure with the pears.

Cut the guavas and tejocotes into quarters.

Heat the water in a pot, add the fruit and boil for 20 minutes.

Add the tamarind, prunes, hibiscus, cloves, piloncillo, sugar and cinnamon, heat until the fruit is cooked.

It serves.

Posada's Song

Pilgrims

–In heaven's name,
I ask for shelter,
For she cannot walk,
My beloved wife.

Don't be so inhumane,
Give us charity,
For it is God in the heavens,
That will award you for it.

We come exhausted,
From Nazareth,
I'm a carpenter,
By the name of Joseph.

She asks you for shelter,
Dear inhabitant,
Just for one night,
The queen in the heavens.

My wife is Mary,
She is Queen of the heavens,
And she will be the mother,
Of the divine word.

May God repay you sirs,
For your kindness,
And may heaven shower you,
With happiness.

Hosteliers

–This place is no inn,
Continue on your way,
I cannot open the door,
I fear you may be a thief.

You can go now,
And bother (us) no more,
Because if I become angry
I will surely beat you.

I don't care for your name
Let me sleep
Because I've already told you,
I will not open.

Well, if she is a queen,
Who solicits this from us,
How is it that by night,
She wanders all alone?

Are you Joseph?
Is your wife Mary?
Come in travelers,
I didn't recognize you.

What a joyful home
That harbors us this day,
The pure virgin,
Beautiful Mary.

Everyone:

Come in sacred travelers, travelers
Come, take this corner,
Although this dwelling is poor, this dwelling
We offer with our hearts.

Mexican Christmas Parties – Posadas

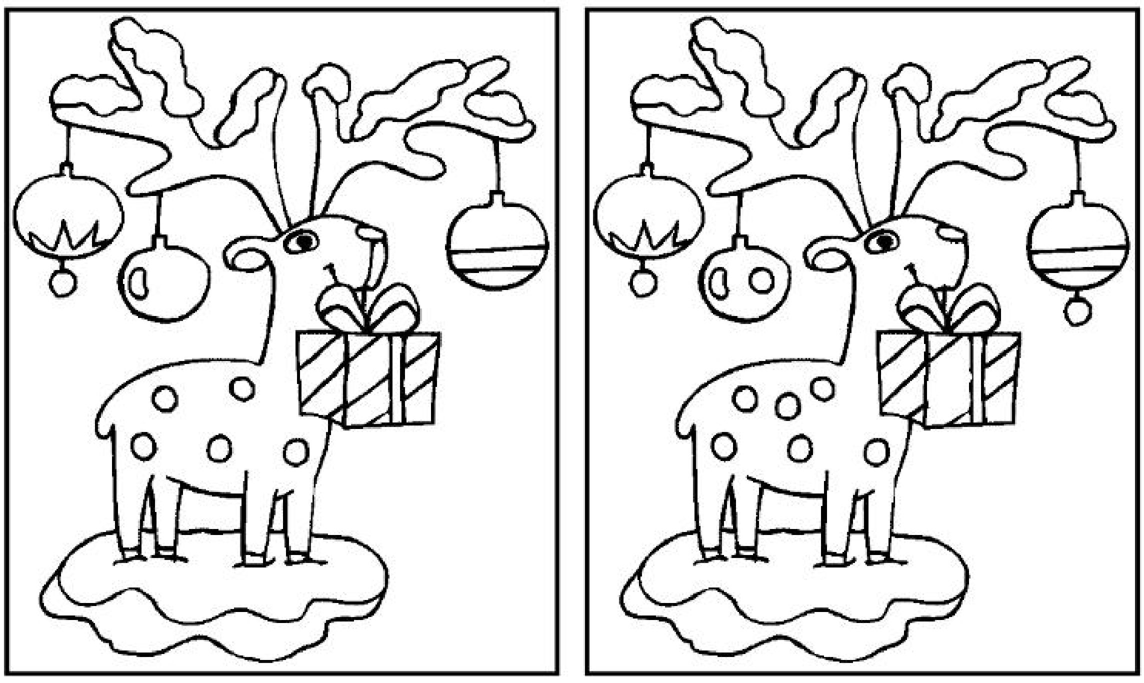
The posadas are an essential part of the Christmas festivities in Mexico, they commemorate when the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph arrived in Bethlehem in search of a place to stay since Mary was pregnant and was about to give birth to Jesus. To remember this moment, the posadas or Christmas parties are held, which are celebrated from December 16 to 24 of each year.

Those who are at the party are separated into two groups, those who are inside, who are the Hosteleros, and those who are outside, the Pilgrims, who represent the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph. The Pilgrims begin the song, who are outside and bring candles to light the way. Those inside will not open the door until the song says that they will be received, which is at the end.

The posadas usually include elements such as piñatas, Mexican fruit punch, tamales, as well as a gift raffle.

It is important to keep in mind that the posadas is a Mexican tradition that is linked to other pre-Columbian festivities that coincided in that on these dates food was shared and cities were decorated in honor of Huitzilopochtli.

Spot the 5 differences!!



Tell them you saw it in Diles que lo viste en
EL CENTRAL

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Posadas mexicanas

Posadas mexicanas

Las posadas son una parte esencial de las festividades navideñas en México, en ellas se conmemora cuando la Virgen María y San José llegaron a Belén en busca de un lugar donde alojarse pues María venía embarazada y estaba a punto de dar a luz a Jesús. Para recordar este momento se hacen las posadas o fiestas navideñas que se celebran del 16 al 24 de diciembre de cada año.

Los que se encuentran en la fiesta se separan en dos grupos, los que están adentro que son los Hosteleros y los que están afuera, los Peregrinos que representan a la Virgen María y San José. Empiezan la canción los Peregrinos, quienes están afuera y traen las velas para alumbrar el camino. Los de adentro no abrirán la puerta hasta una vez la canción diga que se les recibirá, que es al final.

Las posadas suelen incluir elementos como las piñatas, el ponche de frutas mexicano, tamales, así como alguna rifa de regalos.

Es importante tener en cuenta que las posadas es una tradición mexicana que se liga a otras festividades precolombinas que coincidía en que en estas fechas se compartían los alimentos y se adornaban las ciudades en honor a Huitzilopochtli.

¡¡Encuentra las 5 diferencias!!

Espera nuestro Especial Semanal
CULTURAS LATINOAMERICANAS,
by Mariana Ayón RV

Receta Ponche de frutas mexicano

Ingredientes para 12 tazas

12 trozos de Caña de Azúcar
5 Manzanas
5 Peras
10 Guayabas
1 libra de Tejocote
5 litros de agua
½ libra de Tamarindo
½ libra de Ciruela pasa
5 cucharadas Flor de Jamaica
2 Clavos de olor
2 libras de Piloncillo
10 cucharadas de azúcar
2 rajas de canela

Preparación

Pela las cañas y corta en bastones.

Retira el corazón a las manzanas y córtalas en tiras delgadas, repite el procedimiento con las peras.

Corta las guayabas y los tejocotes en cuartos.

Calienta en una olla el agua, agrega la fruta y hierve por 20 minutos.

Añade el tamarindo, las ciruelas pasa, la jamaica, los clavos de olor, piloncillo, azúcar y canela, calienta hasta que la fruta este cocida.

Sirve.

Canción para Pedir Posada

Peregrinos

–En nombre del cielo,
pedimos posada,
pues no puede andar,
mi esposa amada.

–No sean inhumanos,
tennos caridad
que el Dios de los cielos
se los premiará.

–Venimos rendidos
desde Nazaret,
yo soy carpintero
de nombre José.

–Posada te pido,
amado casero,
pues madre va a ser,
la reina del cielo.

–Mi esposa es María,
es Reina del cielo
y madre va a ser
del divino Verbo.

–Dios pague señores
vuestra caridad
y os colme el cielo
de felicidad.

Hosteleros

–Aquí no es mesón,
sigan adelante,
yo no puedo abrir,
no sea algún tunante.

–Ya se pueden ir,
y no molestar
porque si me enfado
los voy a apalear.

–No me importa el
nombre,
déjennos dormir
pues yo ya les digo
que no hemos de abrir.

–Pues si es una reina,
quien lo solicita,
¿cómo es que de noche
anda tan solita?

–¿Eres tú José?
¿Tu esposa es María?
¡Entren, peregrinos,
no los conocía!

–Dichosa la casa
que alberga este día
a la virgen pura
¡la hermosa María!

Todos:

Entren santos peregrinos, peregrinos,
reciban este rincón,
que aunque es pobre la morada, la morada,
os la doy de corazón.

Nominations Are Open for Kevin's Song Saving a Life Award 2024 Honoree

The award recognizes individuals or organizations that exemplify outstanding community service in suicide prevention

Kevin's Song, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering communities to prevent suicide and offering hope and healing to survivors, recently announced it is accepting nominations for its annual Saving a Life Award. Each year, the award is presented to an individual or organization that has demonstrated exceptional commitment to community service in suicide prevention.

"Our 'Saving the Life Award' celebrates those who are at the forefront of suicide prevention, embodying our shared commitment for a future that is free from suicide," said Kevin's Song Executive Director Jennifer Fair Margraf. "There are so many people across the state who go above and beyond when it comes to addressing this complex issue and its impact. We hope to learn more about their efforts and encourage Michiganders to submit a nomination for someone deserving in their community."

Nominations can be made online through January 5, 2024, at https://kevinssong.org/saving-a-life-award/. The winner will be announced at the 2024 "Saving a Life Award" Dinner that will take place on Fri., Jan. 26, 2024, as part of the Kevin's Song 8th Annual Conference on Suicide: Continuing the Conversation. The conference will be held January 25–27, 2024, at the Saint John's Resort, 44045 Five Mile Rd. in Plymouth and features a prestigious roster of the leading mental health professionals, educators and experts.

For more information about Kevin's Song and the Saving the Life Award, visit www.kevinssong.org.

Kevin's Song is a charitable organization dedicated to generating public awareness about the causes of suicide, its prevalence in our society, and possible preventive measures. As an organization we are creating a working community of professionals and advocates that is rapidly being recognized as a valuable resource in the metropolitan Detroit area for offering knowledge, hope and healing to individuals, families and communities touched by suicide.

Kevin's Song was founded by John and Gail Urso in honor of their son, Kevin, who took his own life in 2013. For more information visit www.kevinssong.org or call (313) 236-7109.

KEVIN'S SONG

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

Campbell Street Apartments Breaks Ground

Con't from pg. 1

Campbell Street Apartments will offer lower-income households the opportunity to take advantage of the significant employment and community benefits stemming from continued investment in Corktown and its surrounding neighborhoods. The project is located on long-vacant land in the East Chadsey-Condon neighborhood, which is home to a new, one-acre community park, boasts three successful schools just blocks away, easy access to public transportation, stellar neighborhood grocery stores, and many other walkable amenities, including local and national retailers.

Additionally, the building next door to the development is also owned and operated by MiSide (formerly Southwest Solutions) and houses a variety of community service non-profits including Southwest Solutions administrative offices, Southwest Counseling Solutions Juvenile Justice and Child and Family Service division, Life Directions, Mom's and Babes WIC office and Covenant Community Care Federally Qualified Health Clinic.

"The Campbell Street Apartments housing development is a beacon of positivity for the East Chadsey-Condon neighborhood and its development allows us to directly impact the community we've called home for decades by providing those living here with direct access to our crucial supportive services, "said Sean de Four, President and CEO of MiSide Community Impact Network. "We're delighted for the opportunity to work alongside the City of Detroit to bring more affordable housing options to the region."

Each unit will come with amenities such as kitchens with quartz countertops, stainless steel, double-bowl sinks, and hardwood floors. The building will also feature a community center, complete with a kitchen and entertainment area, as well as laundry facilities. There will also be 50 on-site gated parking spaces for residents, and access to additional gated off-site parking.

Lydia Gutierrez, owner of Hacienda Mexican Foods, spoke about the importance of rebuilding our community together. "Hacienda manufacturers 313 Tortilla Chips and that happens a stone's throw away from this project. We employ more than 70 residents of this community and what we're doing here is [celebrating] more than a building; it's really creating an environment for more things to happen, for better things to happen. I look forward to our employees being able to be residents here and to be able to walk to work. This project is not just about today. It's about the future."

The project's affordability is thanks in large part to Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and more than $14.6M in additional mortgage, gap, and construction loan financing from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). Additionally, thanks to project-based vouchers, no residents will have to pay more than 30% of their income on rent.

"All Detroiters should have a quality home that meets their needs, close to jobs and amenities they need to be successful," said MSHDA Executive Director Amy Hovey. "There is a shortage of affordable housing for working families here, and MSHDA's investment in Campbell Street Apartments shows our commitment to helping address it."

"I am excited and grateful to see this project break ground today, which will bring 40 needed and newly constructed affordable housing units to District 6," said Detroit City Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero in a statement. "The location of this project is ideal, as it sits on a main DDOT bus route, is surrounded by several primary schools, a block away from a health care center, and across the street from a grocery store. I am hopeful that the individuals and families who will call this building home will thrive."

Additionally, the project was awarded a $1.35M grant from Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) to clean up contaminated soil on the property prior to development.

"Making formerly contaminated properties safe for reuse, and back on the tax rolls is always a big win," said Carrie Geyer, manager of EGLE's Brownfield Redevelopment Program. "It is thrilling for our EGLE staff to see a project like this come to fruition and become a community asset for Detroiters."

The Detroit Housing and Revitalization Department's Detroit Home Connect offers a central website for residents to explore affordable housing options across the city. Families can see developments that are under construction, search for properties by city regions, and learn how to apply for affordable housing. Those resources can be found at homeconnect.detroitmi.gov.

Mayor Mike Duggan helps MiSide, state and local leaders break ground on the new Campbell Street Apartments, from left: Brian Kieler, PNC Bank; Sean de Four, MiSide; Mayor Duggan; Amy Hovey, MSHDA; Jason Friedman, City of Detroit HRD; Lydia Gutierrez, Hacienda Mexican Foods and Carrie Geyer, State of Michigan EGLE

Campbell Street Apartments rendering provided by MiSide Community Impact Network

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El Central informs and celebrates Metro Detroit's Hispanic and Latino/a community and Southwest Detroit in particular and supports the professional development of local reporters and photographers who seek to enter the journalism profession.

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Correction

In our cover story last week, we should have reported that the Miss Mexico Pageant was originated by the Mexican Patriotic Committee of Metro-Detroit in the1950s and it was revived in 2019.

Diles que lo Viste en *EL CENTRAL* | **Tell them you saw it in *EL CENTRAL***

The 9th Annual Southwest Detroit Holiday Fest

By Georgina García-Pfeuffer. Photos by Alejandro Ugalde

Last Saturday, December 9, more than 600 people enjoyed the festivities along the Bagley/Vernor Corridor between 16th and 24th Streets. Festivities featured chestnut and marshmallow roasting, a Mexican procession-Posada, a Puerto Rican Holiday Celebration, a Piñata Fiesta, a theater play, and much more. Families and visitors had a great time.

The holiday spirit was truly alive and well throughout the 9th Annual Southwest Holiday Fest.

El sabado pasado, el 9 de diciembre, más de 600 personas disfrutaron de las festividades a lo largo del corredor Bagley/Vernor entre las calles 16 y 24. Las festividades incluyeron desde asado de castañas y malvaviscos, una procesión-Posada mexicana, una celebración navideña puertorriqueña, una Piñata fiesta, una obra de teatro y mucho más. Las familias y visitantes se lo pasaron muy bien.

El espíritu navideño se sintió vivo durante el noveno Southwest Holiday Fest.

The 9th Annual Southwest Detroit Holiday Fest was proudly presented by: Blitzen's on Bagley, The Ford Resource and Engagement Center (FREC), Honey Bee Market — La Colmena, Hubbard Richard Residents Association at the Gazebo, Matrix Theatre Company, Mexicantown Community Development Corporation, Plaza del Sol, Roberto Clemente Recreation Center, Southwest Detroit Business Association, The Goblin Detroit, and We the People.

Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church 61st Annual Children's Christmas Party

By Tanya Caruana

The Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church 61st Annual Children's Christmas Party was held at the IBEW Local 58 in Corktown on Saturday, December 9. This was their first time back indoors since the COVID pandemic started in 2020. Close to 500 kids between the ages of 5-10 in Southwest Detroit attended the new candy lane concept where they were offered face painting, pizza, popcorn, a picture with Santa & Mrs. Claus and many gifts like a coat, gloves, thermal underwear, socks, toy, stuffed animal, coloring book & crayons.

Local Amicci's Pizza owner, John Grossi was the pizza sponsor making and donating over 80 pizzas at the party and Andrew & Camille Cracchiolo helped keep the traditions alive by filling in for Santa & Mrs. Claus while they are in the North Pole preparing for Christmas. Many of the current volunteers previously attended the party as children or have some affiliation to Southwest Detroit and The Brennan Family has pledged a donation towards an endowment to keep the party going for many more years to come.

The Christmas party was started by Monsignor Clement Kern in 1962 when he tapped Leo Derderian, former owner of the Anchor Bar; Bob Popa, former press secretary for Mayor Coleman Young, and his wife Phyllis; Judge Vince Brennan; and Doc Greene, then a Detroit News columnist to start this wonderful initiative that has been around for 61 years.

If you are interested in learning more about the party, donating or volunteering next year, please visit https://mhtdetroit.org/outreach/childrens-christmas-party.

EL CENTRAL's 2023 Guide to Christmas Shopping in Southwest Detroit

By: Martina Guzman, Andrea Meza, Amber Ogden and Juanita Zuniga; Photos by Alejandro Ugalde

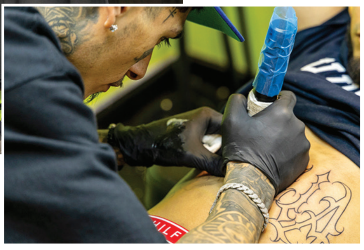
Mexicantown Bakery

Walk into Mexicantown Bakery in Southwest Detroit, past Serafina's famous Rum Cake, keep going past the cinnamon buñuelos, and you will find beautifully embossed Mexicantown coffee mugs sitting on a shelf. I mean, who doesn't love a coffee mug? Especially if the mug triggers a connection to friends and happy memories. If you need a stocking stuffer for the coffee lover in your life or for someone who carries that Mexicantown pride, this is the perfect gift for you.

Mexicantown Bakery at 4300 Vernor Hwy, Detroit, MI 48209.

Detroit Aztec Tattoos

This holiday season, give a gift that will last a lifetime. Get your loved one, family, or friend a tattoo by Master Tattoo Artist Cruz Castellanos or any of his guys down at the Detroit Aztec Tattoos. From Traditionalism to realism or Chicano style, there's no other spot you should be getting a Tattoo. Book in advance or go for a walk-in. Don't know what you want? No worries; you'll be inspired by all the artistry shown from wall to wall in Castellanos's shop.



Detroit Aztec Tattoos is located at 6410 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48210

El Popo Market

Are you looking for the perfect Christmas Ornament this Navidad? Christmas ornaments are fun, practical, and affordable, but finding an ornament rooted in Mexican or Latino culture is hard to find. Well, look no further; at El Popo Market on Bagley, you can find Mexican cornhusk angels and nativity scenes handcrafted by folk artists in Mexico, as well as mini palm leaf piñata's, and hand-painted esferas. These unique ornaments have deep indigenous meanings, such as good luck, protection, healing, and overall health.

El Popo Market 3438 Bagley St, Detroit, MI 48216

Florbella Salon

Show friends and family you care this holiday season by giving them the gift of wellness. Florbella Salon on Michigan Ave. is the ultimate Southwest Detroit destination for those seeking spa and beauty rejuvenation, including plant stem cell treatment, eyebrow services, and top-notch skin and facial treatments like Fibroblast treatment. Florbella Salon is undoubtedly your one-stop-shop for all your beauty needs. Gift a mother-to-be' with a prenatal massage or a loved one with a therapeutic, relaxing, and revitalizing experience. This holiday season, give your loved ones the gift of luxury with Florbella Salon's exceptional services.

Florbella Salon 6162 Michigan Ave, Detroit, MI 48210

VidaAfrolatina

Holidays are not only for receiving gifts but for giving as well; become a donating change-maker this holiday season and help support VidaAfrolatina, a Black women's solution for eliminating violence and promoting healing in Latin America. As a token of appreciation, those who donate $75 or more will receive a stunning graphic tee celebrating Afro-Latina heroines of Latin America. This is an excellent opportunity to give back, make a difference during the holiday season, and pick up a cool graphic tee or gift for someone special—or yourself.
https://secure.actblue.com/donate/vidaafrolatina

PHOTO FROM INSTAGRAM @VIDAAFROLATINA_FUND

Seven Leguas Western Wear

A gift from Seven Leguas Western Wear is a gift within itself. At Seven Leguas, a renowned neighborhood staple specializing in high-quality western wear, finding the perfect cowboy hat – the latest accessory trend to grace the runways, will not be an issue. While Cowboy hats have crossed over into the mainstream, there is no need to go to the mall; the Seven Leguas collection includes a wide range of beautifully crafted hats. From a woven straw hat to a Stetson-style felt hat, there are a wide variety of items that are perfect for gifting. You can rely on quality and craftsmanship to make a lasting impression with your gift this holiday season.

Seven Leguas Western Wear 7139 Vernor Hwy, Detroit, MI 48209
https://el7leguasdetroit.com/

Viva La Vida Imports

Take a quick trip to Detroit's Eastern Market to find Viva La Vida, a Mexican Imports boutique filled with Mexican art and crafts. Business partners Diana Miranda and Paola Portillo personally shop in indigenous communities for handmade home decor, jewelry, and accessories authentically crafted by Mexican artisans. Give a beautifully painted tequila set, including a decanter and four shot glasses for the tequila enthusiast in your family. For that prima who loves to cook, check out the collection of embroidered flower aprons. And for your fashionista younger sister, an embossed leather handbag will have her styling. Viva La Vida is the perfect place to find one-of-a-kind colorful gifts for your loved ones this holiday season.

PHOTO FROM VIVALAVIDAIMPORTS.COM

Viva La Vida Imports 2510 Market St Suite B, in Eastern Market Detroit, MI 48207

Playoffs???

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

The Detroit Lions (9-4) traveled to take on the Chicago Bears (5-8), this past Sunday.

The Lions lost to the Bears 28-13.

The Detroit Lions have 4 games left in the regular season, and their playoff chances remain in the balance.

The Detroit Lions host the Denver Broncos (7-6) this Saturday, December 16th, at 8:15 pm (TV TBD), at Ford Field, then travel to take on the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday, Christmas Eve, December 24th at 1:00 pm (FOX), then travel to take on the Dallas Cowboys, Saturday, December, 30th at 8:15 pm (ESPN/ ABC), before returning back to Ford Field for their final game of the regular season, hosting the Minnesota Vikings, (Date/ Time/ TV - TBD).

The Lions are currently still #1 in the NFC North, and currently would be hosting a playoff game at Ford Field (the first time at Ford Field).

If the Lions can win the last 4 games, they will win the division and host a playoff game at Ford Field, if they lose a few more games, and the Vikings beat the Lions (twice during the home and home games), then the Vikings will take the Division and the Lions will play a playoff game on the road.

Photos below are highlights from previous Detroit Lions games this season

Photo by Adam J. Dewey

Lions RB #26 Jahmyr Gibbs had 11 carries for 66 yards with 1 TD, and 3 receptions for 16 yards against the Bears this past Sunday

Lions QB #16 Jared Goff was 20 for 35 for 161 yards with 1 TD, and 2 INT, against the Bears this past Sunday

Lions DB #32 Brian Branch had 1 tackle and 2 assists, and Lions S #31 Kerby Joseph had 4 tackles against the Bears this past Sunday

Lions head coach Dan Campbell watches play from a preivous game at Ford Field, and expects to win this week as the team bounces back after a loss

Lions WR #8 Josh Reynolds had 3 receptions for 44 yards with 1 TD, against the Bears this past Sunday

CONMEBOL BLUNDERS THROUGH DRAW

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS SPORTS

Pateando la No. 5

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

If you turned the channel too quickly last week, you missed a big change to the final look of the draw for next summer's Copa America.
The USA will be hosting the tournament in the southern tier of the country, with only New York north of the Mason-Dixon line. After more than forty-five minutes of speeches, dancing mascots, and patting former players on the back, the confederation finally started to pull some plastic balls out of fishbowls. What could have been done in five minutes dragged for nearly an hour, but eventually, the USA, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and the other competing countries learned their group stage opponents.

CONMEBOL established rules regarding the draw to ensure that the groups would have some balance between the ten South American nations and the six guests from CONCACAF. The key to that being the USA and Mexico could have no more than one other CONCACAF opponent in their groups. As such when they went through the initial draw, broadcast on international television throughout the Western Hemisphere, at first nobody realized that the USA's Group C had Uruguay, Panama, and the winner of the playoff between Honduras and Costa Rica. Given that Panama had joined the group already, Bolivia should have been the automatic fourth team. Better late than never, they went back to fix the error and reshuffle the groups.

Then, the game schedule came out and it looks like the USA will have a solid chance to advance to the quarterfinals. Gregg Berhalter's team will meet Bolivia first in Dallas, then face Panama in Atlanta, and finish the opening round against Uruguay in Kansas City. If things play out as they are expected, that last game will be the one after which whoever finishes second will go on to face Brazil in the quarterfinals.

Brazil, the top seed in Group D, will meet Colombia, Paraguay, and the winner of the playoff between Honduras and Costa Rica. Brazil and Colombia are easily the class of this group. Their clash will be one of the highlights of the first round. Brazil have lost three straight World Cup qualifiers and probably won't have Neymar available due to the severe knee injury he suffered in October. This tournament could also mark the debut of Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti as Brazil boss. Their rumored courtship has gone on for two years and may be confirmed after the European season ends.

The defending World Cup and Copa America champions Argentina have a straightforward opening round. Lionel Messi and friends will meet Peru, Chile, and the winner of the playoff between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago. None of those teams will have any Argentines shaking in their boots. The Celeste's biggest concern will be whether or not manager Lionel Scaloni stays in the job. After they won a World Cup qualifier in Brazil for the first time ever, he hinted that the end of his highly successful run may be near. It would be interesting to see if he stays and then exits after the Copa America along with Messi.

Mexico has had a revolving door of managers and none has produced much more than mediocrity. They will be challenged by a group featuring Ecuador, Venezuela, and Jamaica. The biggest advantage Mexico will have is the massive support El Tri gets in the United States. This group will be tightly contested as Jamaica has the kind of attacking talent to threaten any goal and Venezuela has been playing some of the best football in their country's history. They are even ahead of Brazil in the CONMEBOL table after six rounds of World Cup qualifying games!

For those looking to attend games, the closest venues to Detroit are Atlanta's Mercedes Benz Stadium and the Meadowlands in New Jersey. No venue will be hosting more than two games. Atlanta will host the opening game on June 20 between Argentina and either Canada or Trinidad and Tobago. The final will be in Miami on July 14. Fox Sports is the broadcasting in the US. Prior to the tournament the US national team is expected to host two friendly games in Florida with Brazil as one opponent and another South American team as the other. Berhalter will start 2024 with the traditional January camp and a friendly against Slovenia in San Antonio.

Blue For Life !!!

Photos courtesy of the University of Michigan Wolverines Athletics Department unless otherwise noted

Photos below show Wolverines head coach Jim Harbaugh's, relationship with the University of Michigan Wolverines.

(bottom left photo) Jim Harbaugh as a ball boy with the Wolverines celebrating with Wolverines QB Rick Leach, during the time Jim Harbaughs father, Jack Harbaugh, was assistant football coach for the Wolverines from 1973-1979.

(right photo) Jim Harbaugh playing with the Wolverines as a quarterback from 1982-1986, under coach Bo Schembechler.

Jim Harbaugh played in the NFL from 1994-2001, then became the current head coach at the University of Michigan Wolverines from 2015-to present.

(bottom right) Wolverines head coach Jim Harbaugh getting ready to lead his Wolverines onto the field at the Big House.

Jim Harbaughs legacy, with the Wolverines, is uncertain due to the allegations against the University of Michigan Wolverines for sign stealing

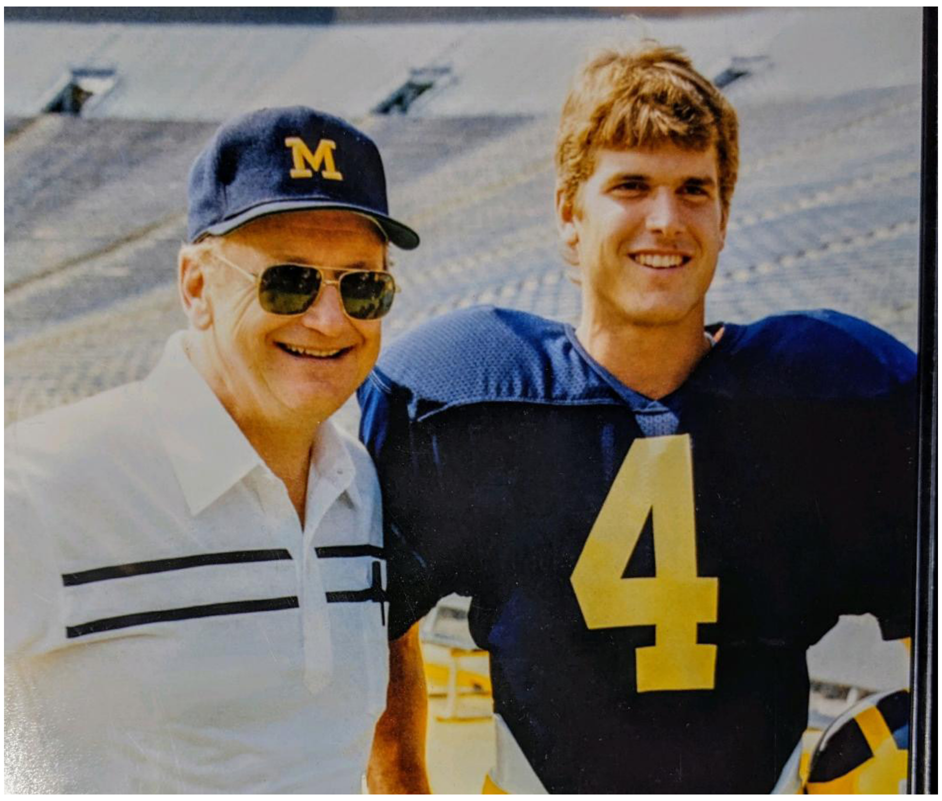


Photo by: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

EDITORIAL OPINION

"Baja Oklahoma AKA Texas Secedes Again?"

By Raoul Lowery Contreras

When you ask yourself what "state" is the most despicable in the world, what is your answer?

Myanmar, murderer of freedom? The Communist People's Republic of China? North Korea, sealed off from the world? Iran, a mullah dictatorship? Saudi Arabia, a medieval Kingdom (circa 700 A.D.) ? Russia, still governed by a Soviet Stalinist ? The State of Israel?

My answer is Texas, the State of Texas sandwiched between New Mexico and its Native Americans and Hispanos, Louisiana and its Creoles and Bayou alligator hunters, Arkansas and its backwoods politicians like former governor Slick Bill Clinton and currently the already failed Governor Sarah Huckabee, and, of course, from where Texas gets its real name, Baja Oklahoma from, Oklahoma.

Of course, Texas' longest border is with Mexico. The 2020 U.S. Census figures show us that non-Hispanic Whites are a minority in Texas (39.8%) while number one ethnicity in Texas is Hispanic (Mexican) with 40.2%. Texas is second to California in number and percentage of Hispanic residents.

According to Department of Public Safety (DPS) statistics illegal residents from Mexico number 1.8 million illegal Mexican residents in Texas along with 3,077,883 legal immigrants.

In 2019, 14,010 illegal residents, 15,692 legal immigrants and 286,248 native-born Americans were convicted of crimes in Texas. By 100,000, that calculates to 1,190 native born convicted per 100,000; 510 legal immigrants per 100,000 and, surprisingly, only 749 illegal residents per 100,000.

So, where is the crime Governor Greg Abbot and his fellow Republicans claim of a massive illegal resident crime wave that is assaulting Texas and its minority non-Hispanic white population?

It doesn't exist! Governor Abbot and his DPS officers are lying. Proof: study by Alex Nowrasteh-- "Immigration Research and Policy Brief No. 19."

Texas' own data destroys Abbot and his badge wearing - gun toting cops and Texas Rangers are simply lying. Texas, itemizes legal/illegal residency of those convicted of crimes.

We must remember that the DPS is the incompetent agency, including its Texas Rangers, that criminally/cowardly stood by while 10 year-old children, almost all of Mexican origin, were slaughtered in their elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, last year.

I'm sure the reader recalls hearing recordings of a ten-year old girl calling 911 pleading for help. I do.

Last week on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures" hosted by Trump-adoring Maria Bartiromo, Trump-acolyte Republican Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas promised he will sign a bill that will make illegally crossing Texas' border with Mexico a state crime.

Specifically, he promised "In two weeks, I'll be signing a new law in the state of Texas that will make it illegal for people to enter the state of Texas from another country illegally and authorize every peace office in the state of Texas to arrest those people entering our country illegally."

Strangely, Texas cops will have some restrictions on who to arrest; the legislation forbids arrests in places such as secondary schools, churches and health care facilities. And, the legislation will authorize police to focus only on illegal residents who have crossed the border illegally in the last two or three years.

The simple Texas way will be to stop every Mexican looking man, woman or child and demand identification even though that is illegal. So is profiling by ethnicity.

News flash: In 2012 the U.S. Supreme Court clearly ruled that Arizona could not enforce a similar law to the Texas Senate Bill 4; the case Arizona v. The United States, 2012.

History: Texas Rangers slaughtered hundreds, perhaps thousands of Mexican nationals in the Rio Grande Valley in 1915 many who had escaped the vicious civil war in Mexico.

History: Over 700 lynchings in Texas of Blacks and Mexicans.

History: In the landmark Supreme Court decision Hernandez v. Texas 1954 the court ruled that Mexican Americans were discriminated against by the state of Texas. Mexican Americans were not allowed to serve on Grand Juries or on regular criminal trial juries. Thus, the Court ruled that Mexican Americans were denied "equal protection of the law" as mandated by the U.S. Constitution.

Now, Texas is attempting to make immigration law. Texas. They think they are making such a law and that they are entitled to it because they are "sovereign" Texans.

The question is, will the United States allow Texas to get away with violating the legal and civil rights of everyone that happens to look Mexican, all 40 millions of us.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

Do you have a contrary opinion? Write us at info@elcentralmedia.com

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Detroit, MI

Most Holy Trinity
313-965-4450
1050 Porter St.
Detroit, MI 48226
Misa: Dom 9am

St. Gabriel's
313-841-0753
8118 W. Vernor Hwy
Detroit, MI 48209
Misa: Dom 9:30am, 12:00pm, 7:00pm
Lunes: 6:00pm
Martes: 6:00pm
Miércoles: 9:00am

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3245 Junction
Detroit, Mi 48209
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Detroit, MI 48209

Please contact Mary Carmen Munoz at 313-554-2025 or send resume to mcmunoz@lasedinc.org

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Part-time Shuttle Bus Driver
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Please contact
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at 313-554-2025
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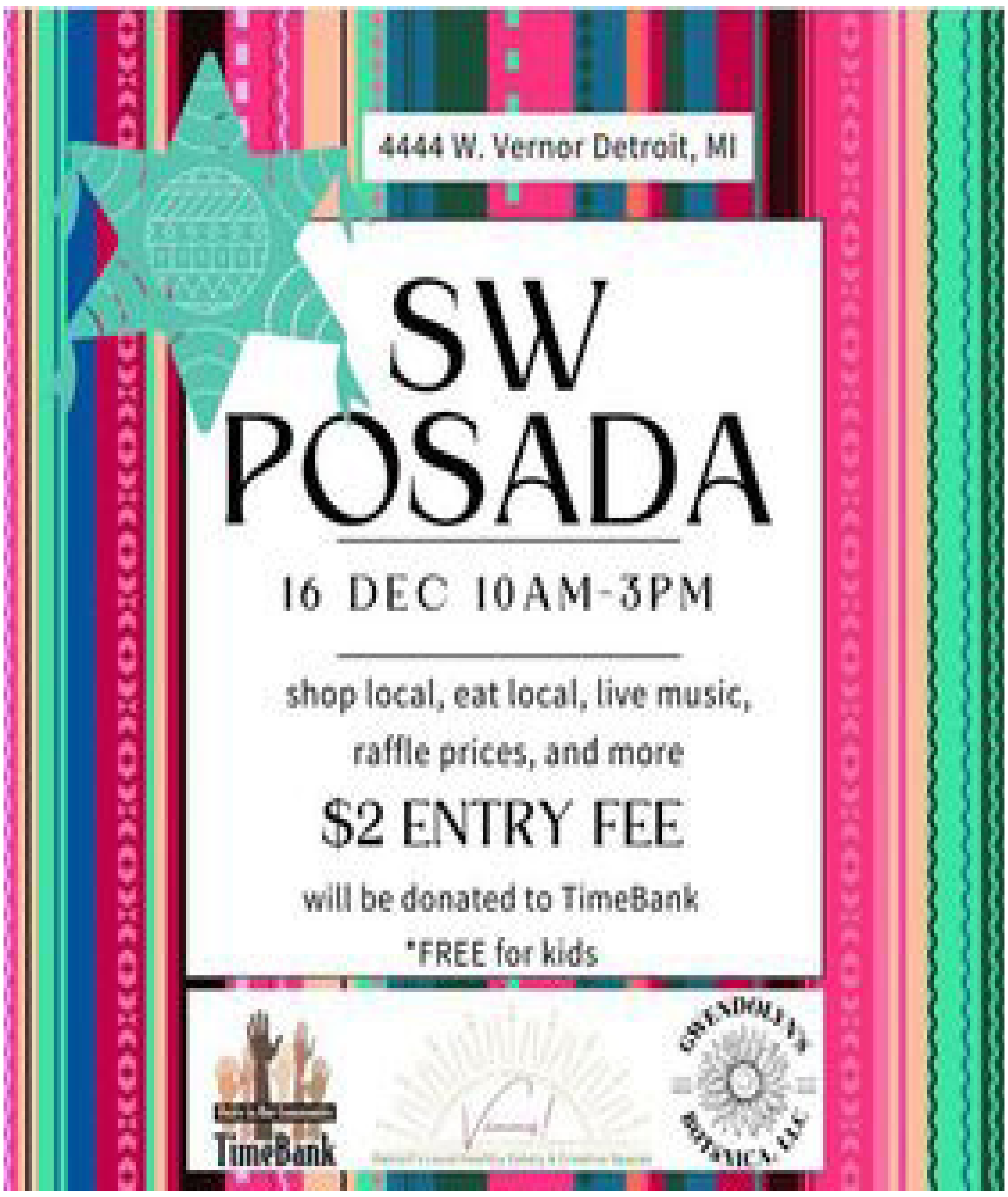

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Divertidos para regalar y fantásticos para recibir, los Holiday Instants añaden más que una pequeña maravilla a sus regalos. A todo el mundo le encanta rascar y jugar para tener la oportunidad de ganar hasta $500,000 al instante. Este año, regala algo maravilloso con Holiday Instants de la Lotería de Michigan.
Haz que la temporada navideña sea aún más maravillosa con 500X MONEY MAKER™ - el nuevo juego instantáneo de $50. Con posibilidades de ganar hasta 50 veces Y multiplicar tu premio hasta 500 veces en cada boleto, es el regalo que sigue regalando.
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